

REMARKS

With the cancellation without prejudice of claim 48 and the addition of new claims 49 to 58, claims 27 to 36, 38, 39, and 49 to 58 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 28 and 48. Regarding claim 28, it should be noted that claim 28 was rewritten in independent form in the Amendment submitted on September 25, 2006. As such, it is believed and respectfully submitted that claim 28 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Regarding claim 48, the Examiner will note that claim 27 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 48. As such, it is believed and respectfully submitted that claim 27, as well as all dependent claims that depend from claim 27, are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 27, it is believed and respectfully submitted that the rejections raised in the Final Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are moot, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Regarding the double patenting rejection, Applicant will file a terminal disclaimer under separate cover.

Regarding new claims 49 to 58, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 49 to 58 add no new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. Since claims 49 to 58 ultimately depend from claim 28, it is respectfully submitted that claims 49 to 58 are patentable over the references relied upon for at least the same reasons that claim 28 is considered to include allowable subject matter.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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